

The invention in which an exclusive right is claimed is defined by the following:

1. A method for providing a Web view page in a dialog box of an application program, comprising the steps of:

(a) in the application program, providing a dialog box object that communicates with a browser module; and

(b) displaying the Web view page in the dialog box of the application program.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the dialog box is displayable in a plurality of formats, one of which comprises the Web view page, further comprising the steps of:

(a) enabling a user to select a desired format from among the plurality of formats for displaying the dialog box; and

(b) in response thereto, displaying the dialog box of the application program in the desired format selected by the user.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the Web view page enables a user to selectively initiate one of an application program specific function and a browser specific function by making a selection in the dialog box.

4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising the step of executing a separate browser program to display content in response to the user selecting a browser specific function related to the content.

5. The method of Claim 3, wherein selection of an application program specific function by a user causes a file management function to be performed.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting an element in the Web view page selected by a user;

(b) processing the element with the browser module if the element relates to a browser function; and otherwise,

(c) processing the element with the application program.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein a browser function includes one of:

- (a) requesting a new Web view page with information sorted as a function of the element selected by the user;
- (b) requesting a new Web view page with information filtered as a function of the element selected by the user; and
- (c) displaying a Web page in a separate browser program as a function of the element selected by the user.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of enabling the user to define the Web view page using a hypertext markup language file.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a new Web view page based on an element in the Web view page that is selected by a user.

10. A method for providing a Web view page in an application program dialog box, comprising the steps of:

- (a) determining whether a computing resource supports a Web view page in the application program dialog box; and if so,
- (b) accessing a browser module with the application program, to enable browser functions from within the application dialog box; and if not,
- (c) enabling only non-browser functions within the application dialog box.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the step of determining, comprises the step of verifying that the computing resource is able to generate a Web view page of information usable in the application program dialog box.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of verifying, comprises the step of confirming that the computing resource recognizes an application program function attribute in a request to the computing resource to generate a Web view page.

13. The method of Claim 10, wherein the step of accessing, comprises the step of loading the browser module into a memory space reserved to the application program.

14. The method of Claim 10, further comprising the step of displaying a Web view page within the application program dialog box, wherein the displayed Web view page includes information material to the application program dialog box.

15. The method of Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) enabling a user to select an element of the Web view page displayed within the application program dialog box; and
- (b) determining that an element selected by the user corresponds to a function of the application program.

16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising the step of executing the function of the application program.

17. The method of Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) enabling a user to select an element of the Web view page displayed within the application program dialog box; and
- (b) determining that an element selected by the user corresponds to a function of the browser module.

18. The method of Claim 17, further comprising the step of displaying a different Web view page of information within the application program dialog box as a function of the element selected by the user.

19. A method for accessing a computer file stored on a computing resource from an application program dialog box of an application program comprising the steps of:

- (a) opening the application program dialog box with the application program;
- (b) requesting a Web view page from the computing resource; and
- (c) displaying the Web view page within the application program dialog box.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of requesting a Web view page, comprises the step of sending a request to a URL address for a Web view page related to the URL and the application program.

21. The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of displaying the Web view page within the application program dialog box, comprises the step of rendering the Web view page with a browser module.

22. The method of Claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

(a) enabling a user to access the computer file by selecting an element of the Web view page displayed within the application program dialog box; and

(b) requesting access to the computer file from the computing resource, based on the element of the Web view page that was selected.

23. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the step of initiating a function of the application program that affects the computer file, based on the element of the Web view page that was selected.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein the function of the application program is one of:

- (a) opening the computer file in the application program;
- (b) creating the computer file;
- (c) deleting the computer file;
- (d) modifying the computer file;
- (e) storing information related to the computer file in a database;

and

(f) retrieving information related to the computer file from a database.

25. A method for initiating an application program function using a browser module accessible from within a dialog box of an application program, comprising the steps of:

(a) enabling a user to selectively activate display of a Web view page within the dialog box of the application program;

(b) enabling a user to select an element of the Web view page upon which an application program function is to be implemented, to initiate execution of said function; and

(c) executing the application program function with the application program.

26. The method of Claim 25, wherein the step of enabling a user to selectively activate display of a Web view page comprises the steps of:

- (a) accessing a Web view page in response to a user selecting a conventional dialog box element within the dialog box of the application program;
- (b) accessing the browser module with the application program; and
- (c) displaying the Web view page within the dialog box with the browser module.

27. The method of Claim 25, wherein the step of enabling a user to select an element of the Web view page upon which an application program function is to be implemented, comprises the steps of:

- (a) employing the browser module to detect that the user selected an element of the Web view page;
- (b) the browser module determining that the browser module need not initiate a browser function related to the element that was selected; and
- (c) acting on the element selected in the Web view page with the application program.

28. The method of Claim 27, wherein the browser module communicates information about the element that was selected to the application program.

29. The method of Claim 27, wherein the application program obtains information about the element that was selected from an operating system under which the application program is running.

30. The method of Claim 25, wherein the step of executing the application program function with the application program comprises the steps of:

- (a) determining that the selected element of the Web view page represents a request to initiate an application program function; and
- (b) initiating execution of the program function with the application program.

31. A method for performing a browser function within a dialog box of an application program, comprising the steps of:

- (a) enabling a user to selectively activate display of a Web view page within the dialog box of the application program;
- (b) enabling a user to select an element of the Web view page upon which a browser function is to be implemented, to initiate execution of said function; and
- (c) executing the browser function with the browser module.

32. The method of Claim 31, wherein the step of enabling a user to selectively activate display of a Web view page comprises the steps of:

- (a) accessing a Web view page in response to a user selecting a conventional dialog box element within the dialog box of the application program;
- (b) accessing the browser module with the application program; and
- (c) displaying the Web view page within the dialog box.

33. The method of Claim 31, wherein the step of enabling a user to select an element of the Web view page upon which a browser function is to be implemented comprises the steps of:

- (a) using the browser module, detecting that the user selected an element of the Web view page; and
- (b) using the browser module, determining that the browser module can initiate a browser function related to the element that was selected.

34. The method of Claim 31, wherein the browser function comprises one of:

- (a) sorting elements of the Web view page;
- (b) filtering elements of the Web view page;
- (c) replacing the Web view page with a new Web view page related to the element selected by the user; and
- (d) replacing the Web view page with a file directory view of stored data.

35. A machine readable medium storing machine instructions for selectively opening a dialog box in an application program; and displaying a Web view page within the dialog box of the application program to enable a user to selectively execute a function from within the dialog box by selecting an element on the Web view page.

36. A machine readable medium storing machine instructions for generating a Web view page for display within a dialog box of an application program in response to a request for opening the Web view page in the dialog box.

37. A system for displaying a Web view page within a dialog box of an application program, comprising

- (a) a processor;
- (b) a display in communication with the processor;
- (c) a user input device in communication with the processor;
- (d) a memory in communication with the processor, said memory storing machine instructions and data defining a Web view page; and
- (e) said machine instructions comprising an application program that when executed by the processor, causes it to perform a plurality of functions, including:
  - (i) displaying a dialog box on the display, as part of execution of the application program;
  - (ii) retrieving the Web view page from the memory; and
  - (iii) displaying the Web view page within the dialog box, on the display.

38. The system of Claim 37, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to:

- (a) detect a user selection of an element of the Web view page with the user input device;
- (b) determine whether a function indicated by the element of the Web view page that was selected corresponds to a function of the application program; and if so,
- (c) perform the function of the application program and otherwise, perform a browser function indicated by the element that was selected.

39. The system of Claim 37, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to:

(a) determine whether a remote computing resource supports a Web view page in the application program dialog box; and if so,

(b) access machine instructions stored in the memory that execute a browser module, to enable browser functions from within the application dialog box.

40. The system of Claim 39, wherein the data defining the Web view page is obtained from the remote computing device and stored in the memory.

41. The system of Claim 37, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to:

(a) enable a user to selectively activate display of a Web view page within the dialog box of the application program;

(b) enable a user to select an element of the Web view page upon which an application program function is to be implemented, to initiate execution of said function; and

(c) execute the application program function with the application program.

42. The system of Claim 37, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to:

(a) enable a user to selectively activate display of a Web view page within the dialog box of the application program;

(b) enable a user to select an element of the Web view page upon which a browser function is to be implemented, to initiate execution of said function; and

(c) execute the browser function with the browser module.